



# POLICY A-8: MAINTAINING WATER DISTRICT CASH RESERVE FUNDS

See also:

6.12.2025

Page | 1

Last Revised:

5.18.2023

## **A-8: MAINTAINING WATER DISTRICT CASH RESERVE FUNDS**

### **1. District Cash Reserve Funds Shall Satisfy Industry Standards and Best Practices**

The District will maintain a General Operating Reserve (Fund 1) to fund daily operating expenses and support the District's cash flow.

The target balance of the General Operating Reserve will equal three months of operating expenses consistent with industry best practices for agencies with monthly rate revenue. Funding for the General Operating Reserve shall be identified at the start of each fiscal year and maintained within Fund 1.

The District will maintain a Self-Insurance Reserve (Fund 4) to fund property and liability insurance deductibles, losses exceeding insurance limits, and unemployment benefit payments in case a claim is made.

The target amount of the Self-Insurance Reserve will equal five times the current JPIA property insurance deductible (currently up to \$50,000). The District shall fund and maintain the Self-Insurance Reserve at the start of each fiscal year through budget transfers to the Self-Insurance Fund (Fund 4).

The District will fund a Rate Stabilization Reserve (Fund 52) to provide for revenue losses, significant increases in water purchase costs, and other extraordinary financial impacts to revenues and expenses. The target balance of the Rate Stabilization Reserve will be set equal to fifty percent of the District's budgeted 1 percent ad valorem property tax revenue. The District shall maintain the Rate Stabilization Reserve in the Rate Stabilization Fund.

### **2. Capital Reserves Will Fund Projects**

The Replacement and Refurbishment (R&R) Reserve, the Emergency Reserve, the Water Supply Reliability Reserve, the Planning and Construction Reserve, and the Capital Facilities Restricted Reserve will make up the District's Capital Reserves. Key objectives for accumulating these Reserves are to fund projects identified in the Long-Range Financial Plan and the Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan, to reduce the volatility of water and sewer rate increases and to quickly repair critical assets in the event of a natural disaster or facility failure.

# POLICY A-8: MAINTAINING WATER DISTRICT CASH RESERVE FUNDS

The Replacement and Refurbishment (R&R) Reserve fund (Fund 7) will fund ongoing costs for the replacement and refurbishment of existing assets in conjunction with the District's Capital Improvement Plan. All amounts will be maintained in a separate R&R Fund. Funding for the R&R Reserve will be from new debt issuances or fund transfers as part of the budget process.

The Emergency Reserve (Fund 1) will provide funds to enable the District to quickly repair critical assets in the event of a natural disaster or facility failure. The target balance of the Emergency Reserve will equal 2 percent of the replacement costs of the District's identified critical assets, as outlined in current guidelines from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The Water Supply Reliability Reserve (Fund 12) will fund the development of new water or recycled water supplies as identified in the District Capital Improvement Plan. All amounts will be maintained in a separate Water Supply Reliability Fund. Funding for the Water Supply Reliability Reserve will be from new debt issuances or fund transfers as part of the budget process.

The Planning and Construction Reserve (Fund 14) will fund the development of new capital facilities that do not result in new water or recycled water supplies as identified in the District Capital Improvement Plan. All amounts will be maintained in a separate Planning and Construction Fund. Funding for the Planning and Construction Reserve will be from new debt issuances or fund transfers as part of the budget process.

The Capital Facilities Restricted Reserve (Fund 15) will fund the development of new district-wide capital facilities or replacement or refurbishment. All amounts will be maintained in a separate Capital Facilities Restricted Reserve Fund and transferred to Funds 7, 12, or 14 as part of the annual budget process. Funding for the Capital Facilities Restricted Reserve will be from capacity fees charged to new developments to buy into existing assets.

### **3. District Debt Service Reserves Will Be Held in Trust**

The District will fund Debt Service Reserves, which are held in trust with a third-party trustee as provided for in bond covenants. Increases and decreases to these reserves will be consistent with bond covenants. The District's accounting records show these amounts in various debt funds.



# POLICY A-8: MAINTAINING WATER DISTRICT CASH RESERVE FUNDS

See also:

6.12.2025

Page | 3

Last Revised:

5.18.2023

## **4. District May Use Certain Reserves for Cash Flow Requirements**

General Operating, and Self-Insurance Reserves may be used any time to meet cash flow requirements of District operations. Authority to use the funds will be consistent with the District's Purchasing Policy.

The Rate Stabilization Reserve can be used at any time to meet cash flow requirements of District operations. The use of the Rate Stabilization Reserve will require Board authorization.

The Board of Directors will authorize the use of the Replacement and Refurbishment, Planning and Construction, and Water Supply Reliability Reserves during the budget process.

Funds from the Capital Facilities Restricted Reserve are transferred to the R&R, Planning and Construction, and/or Water Supply Reliability Reserves as part of the budget process. The Emergency Reserve may also be used for unplanned (unbudgeted) capital replacement and emergency expenses in case of natural disasters or facility failures. When appropriate, the Board may adopt Reimbursement Resolutions as needed to advance reserves before seeking outside funds. Authorization for the use of Capital Improvement Reserves for unplanned capital replacement will be consistent with the District's Purchasing Policy.

## **5. Funds Must Be Replenished As Soon As Possible**

General Reserves are replenished from the District's revenues with the General Operating and Self-Insurance Reserves taking precedence to the Rate Stabilization Reserve. General Operating and Self Insurance Reserves will be replenished by the end of each fiscal year. The Rate Stabilization Reserve will be replenished as soon as possible with replenishment to commence within 12 months of any Rate Stabilization Reserve draw.

The R&R, Planning and Construction, and Water Supply Reliability Reserves are replenished at year end as part of the budget process via transfers or through debt issuances. The Emergency Reserve is replenished from the District's revenue as soon as possible after an emergency outside the budgeting process. The Capital Facilities Restricted Reserve is funded by developer's capacity fees throughout the year and transferred to the R&R, Planning and Construction, and

# POLICY A-8: MAINTAINING WATER DISTRICT CASH RESERVE FUNDS

Water Supply Reliability Reserves as part of the budget process. The District's General Manager or Director of Finance/Treasurer will do a full review of the District's Long Range Financial Plan and cash flow models to determine if corrective actions are needed to replenish the funds in the event of a draw on the Emergency Reserve.

## **6. Reserve Analyses are Required for Review by the Board**

The General Manager or Director of Financial Planning & Innovation/Treasurer will submit a reserve analysis to the Board of Directors when:

- The Board of Directors consider the annual budget.
- The Board of Directors consider a water and sewer rate increase.
- A major change in conditions threatens the reserve levels.

If analysis indicates projected or actual individual reserve levels would fall 10 percent or more below the target levels outlined in this Policy, at least one of the following actions shall be included with the analysis:

- An explanation of why the reserve levels are not at the targeted level.
- A list of actions needed to bring reserve levels within the target levels prescribed.

The District will also use the internal Long-Range Financial Plan and 10-year and monthly cash flow models to determine forecasted reserve target shortfalls and report on needed corrective actions.